

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00
TRSE-00 XMB-02 HEW-04 OES-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 MMO-01 SS-15
NSC-05 AGRE-00 /152 W
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R 231639Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 19630

ALSO PASS AID

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:SPOP
SUBJECT: POPULATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 18805, (B) STATE 199359, (C) CAIRO 17580

1. WE AGREE THAT HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN POPULATION MATTERS
EXPRESSED IN PRESS AND BY INFLUENTIAL EGYPTIAN LEADER-
SHIP IS HEARTENING SIGN AND THAT DONORS SHOULD USE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO REINFORCE THESE EFFORTS. PROBLEM WILL BE TRANS-
LATION OF EGYPTIAN WORDS TO DEEDS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SEE
MINI CG MEETING AS USEFUL ON SEVERAL COUNTS:

A. MAINTAINING MOMENTUM OF CG DONORS FOCUS ON POPULATION
PROBLEM;

B. MOVING DIALOGUE FROM MORE GENERAL TO SPECIFIC
POPULATION CONCERNS;

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C. STRENGTHENING HAND OF PARTS OF GOE WHICH ARE READY TO
SUPPORT MORE VIGOROUS ACTION ON PROBLEM;

D. FOCUSING GOE'S ATTENTION ON SPECIFIC POPULATION
CONSTRAINTS; AND

E. ELICITING GOE IDEAS FOR FURTHER ACTIVITIES.

2. PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE RECENTLY HAS DEMONSTRATED INCREASING INTEREST IN POPULATION CONCERNS. ON THE OTHER HAND, SALEM HAS NOT BEEN A PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE PERFORMER IN THE ECONOMIC/PLANNING SPHERE IN THE PAST; AND AS REPORTED SEPARATELY, HIS TENURE MAY BE LIMITED. ALSO, SINCE MINISTER OF ECONOMY EL-SAYEH CHAIRED EGYPTIAN DELEGATION AT CG MEETING, WE BELIEVE HIS ROLE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE REINFORCED. FOR THESE REASONS, OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR A MINI CG MEETING CHAIRED BY EL-SAYEH, HOPEFULLY WITH STRONG SUPPORTIVE ROLES PLAYED BY MINISTER OF HEALTH BADRAN AND MINISTER OF PLANNING MAGUID. PRESIDENT COULD BE ASKED TO ADDRESS MINI CG MEETING WHICH SHOULD HAVE IMPORTANT EFFECT ON ATTENTION GIVEN TO MEETING.

3. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED PARA 2 REF B, WE AGREE THAT THE LARGER STRATEGY ISSUES YOU HAVE OUTLINED SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. WE DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT MINI CG SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS OPERATIONAL ISSUES SUCH AS THOSE LISTED REF B PARA FOUR A THROUGH E BECAUSE THESE ARE SOME OF THE BASIC PROGRAMMATIC PROBLEMS THAT ARE BLOCKING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM AND HAVE BEEN INCLUDED AS PART OF OUR POPULATION STRATEGY AS SET FORTH IN THE PAPER WHICH YOU HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED.

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4. IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN REF B, WE BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING ARE ALSO OPERATIONAL STEPS WHICH WOULD ASSIST THE OVERALL POPULATION EFFORT:

- A. TRAIN AND PERMIT NURSES TO INSERT IUD'S;
- B. RECOGNIZE DAYAS (INDIGENOUS MIDWIVES) AND TRAIN THEM TO PROVIDE ACCEPTED CONVENTIONAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND TO ACT AS FAMILY PLANNING EXTENSION AGENTS;
- C. INCREASE THE STAFF OF THE MOH'S DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING THROUGH ASSIGNMENT OF SOME TOP-LEVEL CONSULTANTS AND CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL AND ELEVATE THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING TO AN UNDERSECRETARY STATUS;
- D. ASSIST THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING IN ITS EFFORT TO ANALYZE THE "POPULATION FACTOR" IN THE OVERALL FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND TO PUBLISH AN ADDITIONAL VOLUME OF THE PLAN EMBODYING THE RESULTS OF THAT ANALYSIS.

5. THE AMBASSADOR IS PREPARED TO RAISE AGAIN THE POPU-

LATION ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT GENERALLY IN CONTEXT OF
OVERVIEW FROM US PERSPECTIVE AND IMPORTANCE WE BELIEVE
PRESIDENT'S INFLUENCE COULD BRING TO BEAR ON POPULATION
EFFORTS. (SEE REF A.) AMBASSADOR WOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE
IMPORTANCE OF MINI CG MEETING. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT
WOULD BE BETTER TO PREPARE WAY FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION
WITH PRESIDENT BY FIRST DISCUSSING AGENDA ITEMS AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL ONCE WORLD BANK AND UNFPA HAVE INDI-
CATED TO GOE THAT THEY WANT TO GO FORWARD WITH MEETING.
6. FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON OPPORTUNITIES TO BE
EXPLORED MENTIONED IN PARA FIVE OF REF B:

A. USE OF MEDIA AND PERSON-TO-PERSON MOTIVATION: USAID
IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING POSSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING MAJOR
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IE AND C EFFORT THROUGH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 19630

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A E . L I N E S A D D E D)

CULTURE WHICH WOULD UTILIZE ALL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS
AVAILABLE FROM TELEVISION AND RADIO DOWN TO VILLAGE LEVEL
PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACTS TO GET ACROSS FP MESSAGE.
PRESENT ACTION PLAN CALLS FOR ACTIVITY SIMILAR TO THAT
IN DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SERVICES (DIS) PROJECT. THIS
NEW ACTIVITY WOULD BE THE VEHICLE FOR PRODUCTION OF EGYPT-

SPECIFIC MATERIALS TO DEMONSTRATE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF HIGH POPULATION GROWTH ON BOTH EGYPT'S DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF ITS PEOPLE AND THE BENEFITS OF A SMALL FAMILY NORM. WE HAVE FOUND A POSITIVE RESPONSE FOR THIS PROPOSAL FROM BOTH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE. ACTIVITY WOULD BE FUNDED MOST PROBABLY THROUGH FP GRANT AGREEMENT. SHORTLY WE WILL BE REQUESTING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE ONE TO TWO MILLION DOLLARS OF FY 78 FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

B. POPULATION EDUCATION: USAID HAS FINANCED A RECENTLY COMPLETED POPULATION EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR TRAINING OF TEACHERS IN THIS FIELD. ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN PRESENT FP GRANT WILL COVER COSTS OF DEVELOPING PRINTED MATERIAL FOR TEACHER TRAINEES.

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C. HEALTH CURRICULUM: IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH MOH REGARDING IN-COUNTRY FP TRAINING FOR DOCTORS, USAID AGREED THAT FUNDS AVAILABLE UNDER THE FP GRANT FOR TRAINING COULD ALSO BE USED TO ADD FAMILY PLANNING TRAINING FOR NURSES AS WELL -S DOCTORS. MOH REPORTEDLY DEVELOPING TRAINING PLAN FOR IN-COUNTRY TRAINING. ONE OF OUR MAJOR GOALS IS TO BRING MOH TO SUPPORT AND ACCEPT ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING TRADITIONAL HEALTH WORKERS (DAYAS). TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WE PLAN TO SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT MAY DEMONSTRATE TO MOH THAT DAYAS CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO BOTH HEALTH AND FP PROGRAM, AND TO OFFER FUNDS FOR TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THIS CATEGORY OF WORKER.

D. COMMERCIAL SALES: POP AND FAMILY PLANNING BOARD SELLS ORALS AND CONDOMS THROUGH RETAIL OUTLETS AT SUBSIDIZED PRICES. ORALS ARE LIMITED TO PHARMACIES, BUT CONDOMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM MANY SOURCES-- FROM PHARMACIES TO SHOESHINE BOYS. PROBLEM HAS NOT BEEN PRICE BUT RELIABLE AVAILABILITY OF ACCEPTABLE BRANDS. (OUR SUPPLY OF CONDOMS TO POP FAMILY PLANNING BOARD HAS ALLEVIATED THIS PROBLEM.) IPPF IS DEVELOPING A PILOT COMMERCIAL MARKETING PROGRAM FOR CAIRO AREA WHICH WILL MARKET CONDOMS AND A VAGINAL SPERMICIDE. PROGRAM WILL BE MANAGED BY EGYPTIAN FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (EFPA). EFPA EXPECTS TO LAUNCH SALES PROGRAM BACKED UP BY MASS MEDIA CAMPAIGN LATE THIS FALL. TO DATE, AID CONTRIBUTION IN THIS AREA HAS BEEN LIMITED TO FUNDS CHanneled THROUGH IPPF, AS WELL AS CONSULTATIONS WITH IPPF AND EFPA OFFICIALS. WE DO NOT AT THIS TIME SEE NEED FOR FURTHER AID ACTION.

E. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA: USAID AND AID/W HAVE PROVIDED CONSULTANTS FOR THE NATIONAL FERTILITY SURVEY ANALYSIS. THROUGH FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO UNFPA, AID WILL INDIRECTLY

SUPPORT EGYPTIAN PARTICIPATION IN WORLD FERTILITY SURVEY.
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THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES SUCH AS GE TEMPO AND UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, WE SUPPORT TRAINING OF DEMOGRAPHERS IN EGYPT AND IN U.S. IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE COMPETENCE OF LOCAL DEMOGRAPHERS AND INSTITUTIONS.

F. PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS: THROUGH FPIA, PATHFINDER, AND AVS INTERMEDIARIES WE ARE SUPPORTING A LIMITED NUMBER OF PILOT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF FP SERVICE DELIVERY WHICH WE BELIEVE EVENTUALLY MAY BE ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOE HAS BEEN WILLING TO ALLOW PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SURGICAL CONTRACEPTION ACTIVITIES EVEN THOUGH THIS PROCEDURE IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE GOE PROGRAM. GOE APPEARS TO WANT PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS TO "TEST THE WATERS," AND WE BELIEVE THIS IS A VERY USEFUL ROLE FOR THE ASSOCIATIONS AND A ROLE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES.

7. ON BASIS OF REF C AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE BASIC AGREEMENT ON PROBLEMS IMPEDING POPULATION PROGRAM PROGRESS, WE ARE NOW MAKING DISTRIBUTION OF OUR DRAFT MULTI-YEAR POPULATION STRATEGY PAPER TO GOE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN POPULATION PROGRAM.
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